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# Dean's Newsletter: April 1962 v. 1, no. 2

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*Boston University*



# DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

TO THE FACULTY, STAFF MEMBERS, AND STUDENTS

OF THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

*Robrbaugh*

Vol. I No. 2

80 East Concord Street  
Boston 18, Massachusetts

April 1962

Our accreditation-survey (once each 10 years) by the AMA-AAMC liaison team, in mid-March, of course touched every division and department. Most of you saw the schedule I issued: a mighty busy four days, involving also luncheon meetings with "junior faculty", with students. The background reports we prepared beforehand were some 7 inches high! A very strong, well-balanced team: two medical deans, the AAMC director, a distinguished medical education thinker and writer (George Miller), and a teacher-practitioner. The results? I can tell you unofficially I am confident of continued full accreditation for BUSM. The team's observations I found most useful, have passed on appropriately. For us, so close to our problems, it's warming to know they consider we lead the field in medical education thinking, that our Medical Center growing pains are not atypical. They also felt some of our present curriculum is too rigid, too compartmentalized. All in all: a good experience, the visit.

That the educational advisement we do with our students emits a non-sweet aroma, is the conclusion reached by faculty and students. Not everywhere, but far too commonly, we do a sorry job. Nor is this atypical, apparently, for medical schools. Or others, for that matter. The evidence (a recent Administration-Student-Faculty Clinic; a student evaluation; our faculty observations) is convincing. And while the reasons are understandable, this does not alter the problem. So instead of continuing our past approach, we're trying to figure out a radically different and hopefully effective new posture--on this, Mrs. Gowing and Miss Tyler are leading the search.

Date of the annual Student-Faculty Show and Dance has been changed from April 14 to Friday evening, April 27, and note that it will be held not at Hotel Continental, but at the Sherry-Biltmore Hotel on Massachusetts Avenue. Curtain goes up at 8 o'clock with dancing after the show until 1 a.m. Always an enjoyable evening, this year it promises to be full of surprises and fun. Here's our opportunity to test our efforts toward closer student-faculty relations. See you there?

Parking? Still a problem but these quotes from a Student Council memorandum reflect forward movement: "I would like to express...the thanks of the Student Council...Because of your efforts much of the situation has been improved. The current use of the Armory parking lot has gone a long way..." And nice to hear this, too.

MAY 4 1962



BUSM curriculum revision is going forward apace. Faculty reaction (and there were all varieties) were consolidated by divisions and departments, submitted promptly. Also solicited and received were BUSM Student Council views, plus those of deans and faculties of other BU schools closely associated with us. General views were put (by Acting Curriculum Chm. Relman) into a brief summary. These were studied in Curriculum Committee meetings and unanimous recommendations submitted to the Dean and Executive Committee. At the April 2 (week ahead of our April 15 target date) meeting, we approved unanimously.

A sum-up: many proposals to be implemented at once; others to be immediately further explored, implemented, or altered and implemented. Reason for limited detail here is that steps and mechanics have been spelled out in a recent BUSM memorandum (No. 18). The general climate? Good. We are making progress. Did everyone agree? Definitely not. (Being attributed to me is a comment that the real cause of the late-March fire which burned the roof off Building B was that someone left lying about copies of the "brief summary", cf. above, plus the Class of '63 Curriculum Evaluation.) A BUSM faculty team (curriculum cum instructional building) in the next two months will visit selected medical schools across the country which have revised curricula and/or new teaching buildings.

"Committee X" is the title I gave (because I could not think of a better) a faculty group charged to: plan logistics and resources for the AMA-AAMC accreditation visit; plan the April BUSM Open House. And no account, however brief, on these events would be complete without recognition of the superb job done by Committee X members: Drs. Bandler, Chm., Bonnet, and Loew. They were ably abetted by Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Gowing, and Miss Tyler.

Bandler, Bakst, Bonnet and Beauregard! Even tho we killed 15, we yet have plenty of committees. Still, I'm itching to appoint a committee with that membership. I can't remember (and no dictionary at hand) whether it's alliteration or onomatopoeia that describes the pleasant sound. No matter, we lack a Beauregard.

BUSM Family Winter Week End might well have been the title of the new BU Winter Carnival at Sargent Camp February 2-4. Of the 20 families enjoying the snow, games, food, relaxation, companionship, the 7 following were from BUSM: Fuchs, Kaufman, Kornetsky, Mescon, Mirsky, Stechler, Strauss. Because capacity was oversubscribed, Sargent Camp held a second family week end March 23-25, again many from BUSM.

John E. Cooke, a transfer 2nd-year student who drowned while boating off Cape Cod in late March, is widely grieved. He was a promising student. He had already developed many close BUSM friends, was active outgoing. Mrs. Gowing and I, visiting his Wife, Daughter, and Mother, were impressed with their ability to cope.



BUSM's hockey team won this year's BU intramural league with an 8-0-1 record. Reactivated in 1960 the team won 7, lost 2. This year's group, an enthusiastic 12 to 15 players, much the same squad, showed improvement. Jim Brown (Soph) and Bob England (Soph): played almost the entire 50 minutes on defense, each game; Ira Kowal (Sr), team's leading "goal-getter", and newcomer, Frank Davidson (Frosh), a scrappy, hardworking forward, helped to make up the first line, along with Art Carriere (Sr). Don Norman (Sr) and John Towne (Sr) together with John Cooke (Soph), a very reliable center, made up the second line. Jerry Hazard (Sr), Marc Richman (Jr), Burt Perlmutter (Jr), Pierre Provost (Soph), Ralph Nelson (Frosh) and Ted Parsons (Frosh) provided the depth which was the key to the team's success. Al Bennett (Jr), the team's ever-dependable goalie, saved many a game. Bud Grentzenberg (Soph) capably filled the gap when Bennett missed one game. If not overflowing with talent, the team was unquestionably brimming over with the "will to win". Next season's forecast: an even better record, and as much enjoyment. To Capt. Art Carriere, especially, from the team: "many thanks, for his devotion and hard work in organizing, coaching, and leading us to victory".

Internship-announcement day in March was exciting for one and all! Our 4th-year students did remarkably well. A high proportion got top choices. And, with wives, children, others, following the early-morning session in the auditorium, had a full day of celebrating probably the most significant event in their medical careers. A large percentage is in well-known teaching hospitals; 4th-year students appear highly pleased with results. As usual, we had a few unmatched students. This perhaps due to lack of adequate advice from faculty members who needed not only to know many hospitals, but also to be able to assess the ability of each applicant well enough to advise him realistically. For these we changed a long-standing BUSM policy, notified them early that morning they were unmatched (so they with loved ones would not come prepared to celebrate--shades of old college fraternity pledging woes!). Dr. Chester Keefer with his wealth of experience and acquaintance, was standing by in his office to match the unmatched and within hours he'd done so.

On trends in medical education, I heard some thought-provoking data at the 58th Annual Congress on Medical Education and Licensure in February at Chicago. In the 5-year, 1955-60 period, medical schools' tuition income increased 34%, endowment income went up 68%, income from gifts and grants rose by 85%, expenditures from research grants jumped 165%, and those from training grants pole-vaulted 971%. Last year and this, the disparity of growth has continued. Over half the cost of operating our medical schools comes from sponsored research and training projects provided by agencies without primary responsibility to the medical school, and mostly not primarily related to basic medical education at the undergraduate level. (Source: annual questionnaires by Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, and AAMC, as interpreted in a talk.)

Been in the lobby of Building A recently? Light, cheerful, uncluttered. Would that all of our problems were as easily resolved.



New, and mighty significant standing faculty committees are: Faculty Grants Committee (Drs. Angelakos, Howe, Ingelfinger, Chm., Mozden, Pelikan, Sinex, Whipple and Mr. Smith, ex officio) and, Space Committee (Drs. Barrett, Bush, Kane, Chm., Kibrick, Mescon, Ullrick and Mr. Smith). The former will advise the Dean on research and grant sources and developments. The latter will function in connection with BUSM space allocations and reassignments for research, teaching and administration. A Committee on Management Policy for the Research Building has been discharged, with thanks.

Recommending BUSM policy on the role of the pharmaceutical industry in furthering medical education, and particularly in respect to the industry's relations to medical students, is the charge given an ad hoc committee composed of Drs. Pelikan, Chm., Alan Cohen, Dreyfus and Stitt. Our concern began last fall when, after taking soundings among concerned faculty members, we shipped back to a drug company, gift instruments our colleagues considered inferior. But the problem is larger than this, has to do with the whole relationship problem. Sometime ago an agreed statement of policy was developed by AAMC and the pharmaceutical industry. We seek to have and use an effective policy.

Various categories of increased student support were among panaceas for progress discussed at the 2nd Administration-Student-Faculty Clinic held February 1. There was amicable trading of opinions regarding need for Federal scholarship aid, establishment of a BUSM psychiatric clinic, available to students on an informal basis, and an enlarged group of interested faculty advisors. Both philosophical aspects and practical methods of solving these problems were reviewed frankly. At the March 8 Clinic, lively, and sometimes critical, views were expressed on: teaching in the 1st three years, especially the 3rd year; BU's snow (school closed!) policy as inappropriate at BUSM; and some phases of clinical teaching. Perhaps it is the coffee and cake, or that we foregather after 5 o'clock, but the free exchange of ideas at these sessions appears both beneficial and constructive.

A review of BUSM methods for assessing student performance is underway by our Internal Advisory Committee (Drs. Hegnauer, Pelikan, Byrne and Miss Tyler) on the Six Year Program. Careful comparison of student performance in the present curriculum with performance in the Six Year Program is needed to determine the over-all effectiveness of the new program. Such evaluation requires detailed data of present assessment practices. Currently, the Committee is studying comparability of student grades awarded by the various departments and the kinds of testing instruments (written examinations, oral quizzes, term papers, etc.) used.

Fluoridation as a trigger for community conflict was treated from a variety of aspects in the 4th 1961 issue of the Journal of Social Issues, a quarterly issued by a division of the American Psychological Association. I mention it here because doctors, of course, are always knee-deep in this community problem. And because BU's Professor Chin (Human Relations Center) is the Journal's Editor.



Progress in furnishing the men students' lounge in Building C is reported by Student Council Secretary, William C. Gentry, Jr. He says: "Student Council has approved Purchasing Department recommendations of modern, 'modular design', steel frame furniture units. Couch and chair cushions will be upholstered in colorful imitation leather and table tops will be of durable plastic to harmonize with the festive decor. Several small tables will be useful for studying, conferences and meetings, or small group card and chess games. Also under consideration is the possibility of coffee and doughnut machines to serve the student body when lunchroom facilities are closed. The basic plan has been reviewed and developed so that greatest use can be gleaned from available space."

The pilot class in our new Six Year CLA-MED Program completed its first semester in good shape. Considering adjustments all freshmen must make, plus this group's enrollment in advanced-level courses, we are on the whole pleased with its progress. A survey of study hours showed the average time spent per week was 45 hours. Added to this are 23 hours of class and laboratory, making a total of 68 hours per week. Fourteen students spent in excess of 68 hours. These students are willing to work, are enthusiastic students. There have been no drop-outs.

Want to have something duplicated? Where? That's a question which at intervals strikes each of us in the pit of the stomach, especially when we have a due-date-yesterday job on. I know--because, periodically, the Dean's mimeograph machine breaks down. Too many loving and unskilled hands running it. So, as soon as we complete some other housekeeping chores, I've asked Mr. David Smith, who's called our Financial Officer, but is surely a valuable jack-of-all-trades, to work on setting up a BUSM duplicating center where we can centralize all our verifax and similar machines, get better, quicker service.

Our first BUSM Open House, held April 12, appears to have been viewed by all as a whopping success. Those invited totaled around 140--deans of other BU schools, chairmen of departments in disciplines related to BUSM, representatives of affiliated hospitals, BU and MMH trustees, a large group in all. Plus, of course, our own division and department chairmen, and other BUSM full professors. The brief program featured orientation (for our visitors) comments: on basic science and graduate education (Dr. Hegnauer); the clinical years (Dr. Bakst); and hospitals' relationships (Dr. Wilkins). Then followed an hour of chit-chat over cakes and coffee, and informal visits to our facilities with faculty and students. Committee X, plus Mesdames Gowing and MacDonald and Miss Tyler, planned and ran the event, and did it well. For most visitors, it was their first time at BUSM.

The paintings in the Dean's Office are by students in BU's School of Fine and Applied Arts. Decorative; good conversation stimulation; a recognition of the students involved (the pictures are changed periodically)--very satisfactory all the way round.



Do students' values change in college? in medical school? A study some years ago, much disputed, concluded college graduates take with them exactly the values they originally had as freshmen. A recent sociological study at University of Kansas Medical School (Boys in White, Student Culture in Medical School, Becker, Greer, Hughes & Strauss; University of Chicago Press, 1961) presents a perspective of student values as influenced by medical education. The book pictures entering medical students as enthusiastic and idealistic about medicine as a career, where one can achieve rich satisfactions in the care of the sick without being concerned about material benefits. During the 4-year course, this idealism is submerged (but by no means eliminated) in the day-to-day work of satisfying faculty (usually by means of examinations) that they are learning the necessary facts to become doctors. It is this practical approach to dealing with instructors (even to the point of cheating occasionally) that has led certain observers to describe the "cynicism" of the medical student. This would seem to be less cynicism than an effort to learn that fraction of the enormous amount of medical knowledge which will help pass examinations. The Kansas study shows that during the fourth year, students--realizing they have virtually achieved their goal--return once again to their idealistic view of medicine. Now, however, it is an informed idealism and the mature senior student combines these values with his medical sophistication to create a dynamic, knowledgeable code of ethics.

This study points up the work done by the young adult in college or graduate school. Although the student may graduate with values similar to those with which he entered, it is probably naive to suggest that this has been a simple process involving continued association with other students who hold identical values. Most students who engage meaningfully in the educational process, will examine critically their values in the light of the material studied. They will integrate, study and modify these concepts so that these are no longer passively acquired precepts brought to college, but rather dynamic parts of their personalities built in after soul-searching, discussion and testing. The Kansas study shows this well. (Courtesy: Dr. Malamud, Jr.)

And at BUSM? (cf. item above). Last December our Student Council asked that the incidence of cheating be considered. The Council's concern: if a medical student cheats, how can he, once an M. D., suddenly turn over a new leaf and have the integrity doctors must. I asked our Student-Faculty Council (chaired by Dr. Richard D. Bush) to examine the matter, report. It did. Reporting on the Council's conclusions, Dr. Bush stated, in essence: academic discipline at BUSM is fundamentally sound; the problem, to the extent it exists, is a nuisance, is not of major proportion. Major factors in student integrity, the Council decided, are examples set by family and early associates, with not much change coming after graduate school study. Of much significance: "Faculty and administration attitude; development of a climate of mutual trust, by appreciation that medical students are mature and responsible, and that cheating in any form will not be condoned". The Council also recommended certain specific steps by faculty and departments especially. Copies of the report are available on request. (Yes, this last is a test.)



Major medical expense insurance for all full-time faculty and staff members will be provided by the University, at its expense, effective May 1. The maximum benefit of \$15,000 may be extended to dependents at a small monthly cost. Covering a broad scope of medical expenses, whether incurred in hospital or not, this TIAA (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, which also handles most college retirement plans) policy has a \$100 deductible (like auto insurance) provision for those with Blue Cross-Blue Shield, more for those who don't. The BU Personnel Office will provide information.

Effective U.S. experience for foreign students swings heavily on how well they are oriented to the whys and wherefores of American life, particularly American college and university ways. Not often is such orientation done well, and fully. Reasons include: lack of organized analysis and planning, and of experience; and, in higher education, tight-money bind, justified reluctance to divert to such ends, manpower and funds needed elsewhere just to keep even. And for this, plus other factors, of course, there is more foreign student "erosion" than many of us realize. Yet annually, increasing numbers come to the U.S. (about 50,000 now), and to the Boston area. Traditionally with many (this year 800 to 900) foreign students in all its schools and colleges including BUSM, with graduates in most other countries, need for a widened, improved approach is a matter of concern to BU. Further, the new 1961 Hayes-Fulbright Act (PL 87-256) provides implementation funds. With the thought that instead of several different institutional programs, Boston could benefit from one area program, BU has invited Harvard, MIT, Boston College, and Brandeis to work out a joint program, has gotten warm response (together these institutions have some 4,000 foreign students) and work is going forward. Heading the planning, as the deputy of BU's Vice President for Academic Affairs, is CLA's Dean Millard, plus our intra-BU committee. BUSM's Dr. John Byrne, who chairs a BUSM committee on foreign doctors, is involved.

Among recent interesting grants have been: approval of our application for a \$137,000+ annual (for 5 years at least) institutional support grant from NIH (the kind we need more of; few strings); a \$10,000 gift from Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies. There are many more--these are representative.

Another BUSM Research Career Award (the 1st, Dr. Relman, Jan. Newsletter) will bring to BUSM July 1, Dr. Robert Klein, now Professor of Pediatrics at University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Klein received his M. D. from Harvard, interned at Boston Children's and U. S. Army, was Assistant Resident at Children's (pediatric endocrinology) Hopkins (under Dr. Lawson Wilkins).

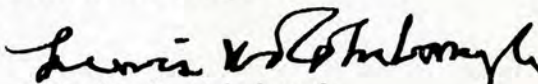


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Personal Notes ... Dr. Henry M. GOLDMAN was honored April 8 when several hundred friends including former students gathered in the auditorium to cite his contributions, and present a portrait, which I accepted for BUSM ... Dr. Henry J. BAKST is being appointed Consultant, American Board of Preventive Medicine, and alternate on AMA's Council on Medical Education and Hospitals' Review Committee on residency programs in the same area ... At the March meeting of the Medical Foundation, Dr. James M. FAULKNER, former Foundation president, received a citation from The New England Journal of Medicine ... Dr. F. Marott SINEX has been named one of BU's three members on the joint Liaison Committee with Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, under a recently developed memorandum of understanding for BU-Foundation cooperation ... Chosen March 29 by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, as one of eleven "Outstanding Young Men of Greater Boston" was Dr. Evangelos T. ANGELAKOS ... Psychiatric Educational and Service Programs in Greece will be the subject of a 1962-63 study by Associate Professor James C. SKINNER who has received a fellowship from The Commonwealth Fund, and a BU leave of absence. Professor Skinner will make his headquarters in Greece at the University of Thessalonika Medical School ... Professor William J. CURRAN (and Director of the Law-Medicine Institute) is on leave for a Ford Foundation-financed, 7-month study of legal and legislative history of socialized medicine programs in Western Europe ... Old news to some, but perhaps not to all: the appointments of Dr. Edward W. PELIKAN as Chairman, Department of Pharmacology, and of Miss Eleanor TYLER as (half-time) Assistant to the Dean. Miss Tyler is also Assistant to the CLA Dean, in connection with the Six Year Program ... The new Dean? Reports have it that two distinguished prospects will be visiting the campus for interviews just about now ... BUSM's new Plant Superintendent is Mr. Germano B. "Jerry" ZOLLO who joined our staff on April 6. In charge of maintenance, repairs, alterations and installations, he can be located almost anywhere in our physical plant but his office is in the basement of the Research Building.

  
Lewis H. Rohrbaugh  
Acting Dean